GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:387
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2005
EFFECT OF TSUNAMI ON KALPAKKAM ATOMIC POWER PLANT
Gandhi Shri Pradeep;Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy;Singh Shri Sugrib;Yadav Shri Baleshwar

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been serious damage to the Kalpakkam Atomic Power Station due to Tsunami;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has repaired the property and plant damaged in Kalpakkam;

(d) if so, the expenditure incurred thereon; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to save the plant due to such incidents in the future?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER`S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):
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(a) No Sir. There was no damage to Madras Atomic Power Station (MAPS) at Kalpakkam in Tamilnadu due to tsunami on 26/12/2004

(b) During the incident, the water level in the MAPS pump house located near the coast also rose along with the rise in sea water level resulting in submergence of a few pump motors. There was no other effect to the station.

(c) These pump motors were dried and made functional soon thereafter. Subsequently, Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (a PSU of DAE and owner of MAPS) and a team of Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) separately carried out detailed inspection of the plant. After clearance of AERB, the unit was restarted within a week of the incident and has been in operation since then.

(d) The expenditure has been insignificant and could be included in regular O&M budget of the MAPS.

(e) All Systems/components and the operator actions have been as per the design. The incident has, in fact, validated the robustness and conservative design of the plant to withstand such incidents. No specific action is therefore needed in this regard.